

Border Fence Threatens Big Cats (And People, Too) PAGE 6



Hunger & Riots as Food Prices Soar



Why Does Food Cost More?



The high cost of OIL, mainly because of turmoil in oilproducing countries, like Iraq. Oil is used to grow and move food.

Increased demand for **BIOFUELS**. Biofuel is energy that comes from plants. Instead of growing corn, for example, to

feed people, corn is grown for energy. This increased demand makes the price of corn go up. Corn and corn syrup are used in all kinds of things like bread, chips, salad dressing and even some diapers and batteries. So when the price of corn goes up, the prices of lots of other things go up too.



SPECULATION in **commodities**, or goods. [See box at right.]

"FREE TRADE" promoted by the U.S. government through organizations like the World Bank. In order to be approved for a loan

from the World Bank, countries have to focus on growing food for **export** instead of food for their own people. They also have to allow a lot of cheap imported goods to enter their country. This hurts farmers who cannot sell their products as cheaply as imported goods from countries like the United States. Big U.S. farmers get money from the U.S. government, called a

subsidy. Farmers in poor countries don't have this help.



Number of people who live on less than \$1 per day

Number of people who face hunger worldwide

18,000

Number of kids who die from hunger-related causes every day

Sources: World Bank Development Indicators; State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2006; Earth Policy Institute

How Speculation Works

Say a person with a lot of money goes to the supermarket and buys 1,000 boxes of corn flakes for \$4 each on "contract" from the store manager. This person, a trader, is not buying the cereal to eat; he is hoping to sell it back at a higher price.

Because there is less cereal on the market, the store manager raises the prices. Soon, the price of a box of corn flakes is \$10 and the trader sells his contract back and pockets the difference of \$6 a box.

This is called **speculation**; it's like gambling.

This is what is happening all over the world. Traders and banks with lots of money are buying up contracts on all sorts of basic items - milk, pork, gold, oil, aluminum and more — hoping to make money. But this is taking food off the dinner table for millions of families. While a few rich people can get even richer, it means other people must go hungry or even starve.

Kenya Quick Facts

Population: 37.9 million • Capital and largest city: Nairobi • Official languages: Swahili (since 1963), English • Motto: "Harambee" (Swahili), meaning "Let us all pull together" President: Mwai Kibaki • Poverty: 50% of the people live below the poverty line • History: Obtained independence from the United Kingdom in 1963

MEET JACKLINE FROM KENYA

Name: Jackline Mathoni, 14 Home: Mahiga (a small town in central Kenya)

Languages: Kikuyu, Kiswahili, English

Family: She lives with her grandparents — her parents died from AIDS.

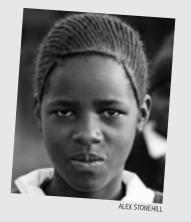
Favorite foods: Nyama choma (traditional Kenyan roasted meat) Favorite subject in school: Mathematics

What she wants to be when she grows up: An airline hostess (she wants to travel)

More info: Jackline attends a school for orphans. The students eat most of their meals at the school, even on the weekends, because their surviving quardians often can't afford to feed them. Despite the challenges the students have faced, their school is consistently one of the highest ranked for academics in the region.

Advice for American kids: "Study hard so you can achieve your dreams."

-ALEX STONEHILL/COMMON LANGUAGE PROJECT



Learn a little Kikuyu!

Hello: Níatia Friend: Múrata Dog: Ngui Elephant: Njogu

I love you: Ní ngwende te





NEW YORK COPS FREED

Chanting "50 shots equals murder!" about 800 demonstrators marched through several neighborhoods in Queens, New York, on Friday, April 25. They were there to protest the "not guilty" verdict of three police officers in the Sean Bell murder case. The officers fired 50 shots and killed Bell, a 23-year-old African American, the night before his wedding in November 2006. Two of his friends were severely wounded. All three of the men were





The Dalai Lama, left, is the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual and political leader.

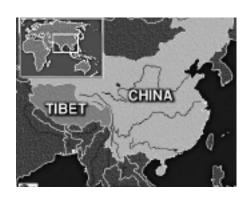
The Olympics Go to China

By Amanda Vender

■ he Olympics are coming to China this summer — but not without controversy over Tibet, a province of China where the Tibetan ethnic group lives. As the Olympic torch made its way from Greece in April, it was met with protests along the way, including in London, San Francisco and New Delhi, India. Demonstrators say the Chinese government is abusing the human rights of the Tibetan people.

On March 14, days of protests broke out in Tibet against the Chinese government. After Buddhist monks were arrested by the Chinese government, angry Tibetans burned cars and attacked Chinese shopkeepers and buildings such as the Bank of China and China Telecom Corp. These are seen as symbols of the discrimination and exploitation Tibetans experience under Chinese rule. Chinese police used force to stop the protests.

While many human rights advocates



are using the Olympic torch relay to bring attention to Tibet, some observers believe the U.S. government is using the media to make China look bad. China is a competitor to the United States' economic and military power in the world.

In the past 50 years Tibetan groups that oppose the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama have received millions of dollars from the U.S. government. This is what has led critics to believe that Tibet is used by the United States in a campaign against China.

indykids

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. $\mathit{IndyKids}$ is funded through donations and grants.

Children's PressLine: www.cplmedia.org Common Language Project: www.commonlanguageproject.ne New York Collective of Radical Educators: www.nycore.org New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org New York Public Library: www.nypl.org Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net

Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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BLUE STAR: \$50

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Bronx Students Protest Guantánamo

By Marie Anne K. Baltazar

n April 4, students from Bronx International High School took to the streets with nonviolent resistance to raise awareness about human rights violations at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Guantánamo Bay is a military prison used by the United States. There are approximately 275 men from different countries currently being held there. Most of these men have not been charged with any crime and report being tortured and ill-treated. None of the prisoners have been able to chal-

lenge their detention in an independent court. After learning about the cruelty in Guantánamo, the students felt really angry and scared. They decided they needed to do something about it.

The students held a vigil. "It was like a play. Three students and one teacher were dressed just like the prisoners in Guantánamo Bay, with black and orange clothes, and were all kneeling on the floor with their hands tied behind their back and their head covered by a black cloth, in front of the school," said Larah Apoyolo, a 16-year-old sophomore at Bronx International who decided to join the vigil after seeing it in action. More

than 70 students participated in the vigil, standing in a long line, wearing black masks and orange arm bands, and holding posters expressing their unhappiness with illegal detentions in Guantánamo.

Larah Apoyolo was crying as she spoke. "People in their cars and on the street were all looking curiously at us and at the posters we put up. I felt proud and happy because we as both students and teenagers are standing up for justice."

Marie Anne K. Baltazar, 15, is a sophomore at Bronx International High School.



SOPHIE FORBES

Immigrant teens protest illegal detentions and human rights violations committed by the U.S. military at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Soldiers Speak Out Against War and Occupation

By Hannah Wolfe

More than 200 members of Iraq Veterans Against the War gathered outside Washington, D.C., in March to speak out against the U.S. government's occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, which has led to the deaths of more than one million Iraqis and 4,000 U.S. soldiers, and has wounded or emotionally damaged countless other people.

One message was loud and clear: the soldiers who have fought and are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan are not bad people. Many joined the military thinking they were going to bring freedom to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, and save the world from "weapons of mass destruction." When they found out that both of these ideas were lies, they felt angry and betrayed.

Many of the soldiers and vets there had joined the military at age 17 or 18, hoping to get money for college. They talked about being lied to by military recruiters, who told them they would not be in combat or that they would receive money to go to college. They

talked about getting injured and having to struggle to get medical care.

Phil Aliff, a 21-year-old Iraq veteran who wants to go to college to be a writer, said, "Students and soldiers and vets, we are *all* affected by this. College

tuition is going up. More and more people can't afford college and have to enlist in the military. The money is all going to the military, instead of to schools and healthcare. We need to join together to say *no* to the occupations."



news briefs

NATION

Rice Rationing

Costco and Sam's Club, two of the biggest grocery store chains in the United States, announced in April that they will limit the number of large bags of



rice customers can purchase. The decision comes in response to the rising price of rice, which has gone up 74 percent in the last year.

Mother's Day for Peace

In the United States Mother's Day was the idea of Julia Ward Howe. Howe knew the effects of war on women. So in 1870 she called for a "Mother's Day for Peace" and urged women to oppose war. A woman named Anna Jarvis continued Howe's effort to designate a Mother's Day. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day.

Toxic Baby Bottles

A chemical called bisphenol A, or BPA, that is used in baby bottles and hard plastic containers could be dangerous to fetuses and babies, according to the National Toxicology



Program. In research on rats, BPA produced breast and prostate cancer, early female puberty and other reproductive and brain disorders. Stores like Toys 'R' Us and Wal-Mart say they will stop selling products with BPA.

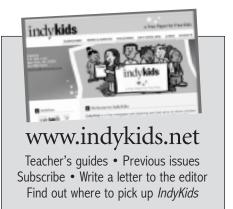


AMANDA VENDE

WORLD

International Workers Day

May 1, or "May Day," is International Workers Day. It commemorates the struggles and achievements of working people everywhere. The day is recognized in most countries of the world but not in the United States. May Day started in 1886 when workers in Chicago were struggling for an eight-hour workday. At that time, workers labored for twelve to fourteen hours a day. Even now many people work more than eight hours a day.



KIDS AT WORK

They would **RATHER BE PLAYING**. But there's little time for having fun — these children have jobs. The 'cycle of poverty' has hit them particularly hard.

hat are your plans this summer? Playing in the park with friends, going to the beach, having a blast at summer camp? Imagine if, instead of all that, you had to work, not play, all summer long. For more than 165 million kids ages five to 14, that is not an imaginary scenario — it's a reality.

Most working children are in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, but many kids in the United States work too, especially on big farms. Although it is against the law in the United States for children to work if they are younger than 14, younger children may work in agriculture — and poor families often need the extra money that their children can earn.

"I had **BLISTERS** on my hands. My back was **HURTING**. My head was hurting."

> Santos Polendo, who started working in Texas at age six

(This is different, by the way, from household chores like cleaning your room and taking out the trash some kids are work under very poor conditions for ten hours a day or more, six days a week!)

Take Santos Polendo, for example. He told Scholastic News that he started working on a farm in Texas when he was just six years old. It was not easy. "I had blisters on my hands. My back was hurting. My head was hurting," he recalled. Santos's family desperately needed the money.

The main reason children are working is because their families are so poor. Parents are not paid enough on their job, or there are not enough jobs for adults. Children work so that their family does not starve.

Child labor only causes more poverty. For example, in India there are 60 million children working, yet there are 70 million adults who cannot find a job. The adults have been replaced by children because the bosses don't have to pay kids as much as they pay grownups.

Besides missing out on the normal childhood playtime that the rest of us take for granted, working kids are more likely to get hurt than adults because their bodies and minds are still developing and they don't have enough work experience. More than 22,000 kids die every year in work-related accidents.

Child labor is a big problem around the world. But people, including kids, are taking action. Read on for ideas on what kids can do to help end child labor.



KENYA: A nine-year-old girl picks coffee beans on the Misarara Estate Coffee Plantation to help her family survive. She is one of many child workers shown in the feature film Stolen Childhoods, which documents child labor in eight countries.



NIGER: Children in the village of Iskita in the west African country of Niger are regularly sent to work in the fields. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate of child labor in the world: almost one out of every three kids works.

INDIA: Cottonseed production in Andhra Pradesh, India. Children work up to 13 hours a day in these fields, and often they suffer from from inhaling pesticides.





very sensitive, and flying sparks

children who complain of injuries

can do a lot of damage, but

usually lose their jobs.







MAURITANIA: Girls weave a straw rug in this northwestern African country.

INDIA: AT LEFT, a boy separates mountains of chili peppers in Rajasthan, northwestern India. It's a job that will take him hours to



BELIZE: A

Mayan boy

carries a bundle

of fire kindling

down a long

remote village

small country in

Central America

in Belize, a

road into a

UNITED STATES: This photo of boys working at a mill in Macon, Georgia, is almost 100 years old! The photographer, Lewis Hine, was a New York City schoolteacher who felt so strongly against child labor that he quit his job to take many pictures that documented working conditions around the country. It wasn't long before the United States passed tough



WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

June 12 is World Day Against Child Labor. The event, organized by the International Labor Organization, is aimed at mobilizing people against child labor, especially its worst forms such as enslavement, separation from families and exposure to danger. There are activities all around the world to raise awareness about child labor.

KIDS TAKING ACTION

Igbal Masih was sold into slavery to work at a carpet factory in Pakistan from age four to 10. Then he became an activist with the organization Bonded Labor Liberation Front and a public speaker on behalf of child laborers. At 13, he was killed as he traveled near his village. Students at Broad Meadows Elementary School in Quincy, Massachusetts, who had heard Iqbal speak at their school in 1994, formed a campaign to fight to end child labor.

Read about their work at: www.mirrorimage.com/iqbal/

PEOPLE TAKING ACTION

The RUGMARK Foundation (www.rugmark.org) works to end child labor in the carpet industry and to provide educational opportunities to children in South Asia. The organization inspects and certifies rug-making companies as child labor free.

GOVERNMENT TAKING ACTION

An initiative in Brazil called Bolsa Familia ("family scholarship") rewards families with a little money every month that their child has perfect attendance at school. This encourages children to get an education and at the same time helps families make up for money they are not earning because their kid isn't working anymore. Eleven million families a year are helped by Bolsa Familia.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Write a letter to your Congress members telling them that you think the United States should do everything in its power to bring an end to child labor. Go to www.visi.com/juan/congress/ to get e-mail addresses.
- Form a student club like a "No Child Labor Club." Invite speakers or watch movies about child labor, write letters to officials, create skits or videos about what you've learned. Raising awareness is an important step toward making changes.
- ❖ Learn more about the causes of poverty and inequality that lead to child labor and work to end those problems too.



SOURCE: UNICEF, 2007



Summer 2008 indykids 5 indy**kids** Summer 2008



The ocelot is a wild cat whose numbers may decrease if the construction of the United States-Mexico border fence continues.

Border Fence Threatens Big Cats (And People)

By Krista Giacopelli

The U.S. government is building more miles of fence on the United States-Mexico border to deter undocumented immigrants from entering the United States. However, this move to decrease the migration of people will also lead to a decrease in the migration of wildlife and may endanger some species that live near the border.

The ocelots, jaguars and jaguarundis that reside in areas on both sides of the fence have always had the ability to breed with each other, but once the fence is up the animals will be separated.

Scientists fear that if the ocelots, jaguars and jaguarundis from Mexico do not breed with their United States counterparts, such animals may become extinct. Another fear is that these animals and others will be cut off from the Rio Grande river, a major water supply, which may also lead to animal death and extinction.

Wildlife protective agencies and activists are fighting to stop the increased pace in construction of the fence by lobbying Congress and speaking out on the issue. "I am one of a dozen scientists ready to lay our bodies down in front of tractors," Healy Hamilton, director of the Center for Biodiversity Research and Information at the California Academy of Sciences, told the Washington Post on April 20.

The border fence threatens people, too. Hundreds of people die making this crossing — many from exposure and dehydration.

The deadline to finish the fence is December 31, just before President Bush leaves office.

THE FROG KEEPER

Ceijay White, 11, is the official caretaker of two African water frogs. They are aquatic frogs, also called Xenopus laevis. Ceijay lives in Queens, New York. IndyKids interviewed him about his frogs.

How long have you had these frogs?

A little over a year. My old science teacher was giving them away. There was a raffle and it was 100 percent sure I would win.

Why were you so sure?

Because I was the only one who entered the raffle.

How do you take care of the frogs?

I feed them three to five food sticks every morning, broken in half. But it's okay if I miss a day. When you see the water go below their waist, you have to add water. You have to clean the tank once a month. But you can't use soap because it will damage their health.

What do you like about caring for frogs?

It's cool to study them. They swim; they don't jump. They like to hide behind the rock. The larger one is a female, and the smaller one is a male. They're cool in their own way. -AV



A Tiny Egg Turns Into a Monarch

By William McCleary

f you look sharply this summer, you can watch the life cycle of a butterfly. You might try looking for the monarch, a large orange and black butterfly that is easy to locate.

Watch several monarchs closely until you see one that keeps dipping down to the ground and then bobbing up again. That's a female laying eggs on milkweed. She will pause on the edge of a leaf, bend her abdomen underneath and lay a single egg there.

If you look under the milkweed leaf, you will see the egg, a tiny spot sticking out from the leaf.

Check the leaf every day. In about five days the egg will hatch into a tiny





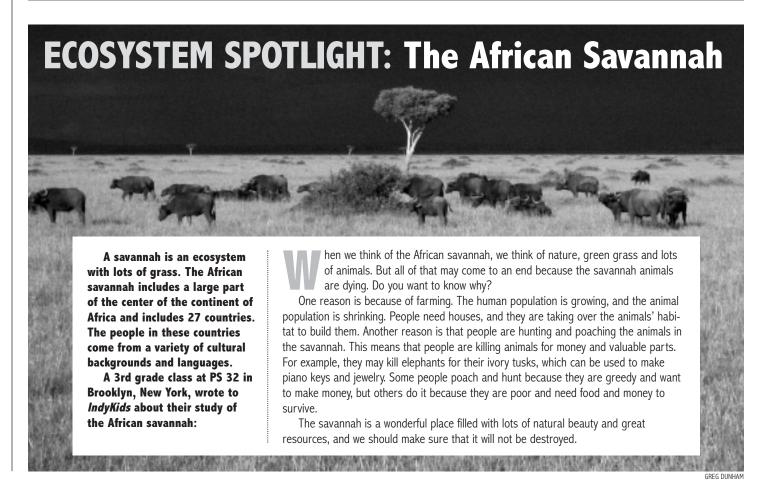


A caterpillar

grows very fast. In about two weeks it will grow from a tiny creature into a big caterpillar about two inches long. At this point, the caterpillar will wander off and prepare for its transformation.

In a day or two, it will deposit a weblike button underneath a leaf and hang down in the shape of a "J." The next day you will find that the caterpillar has formed into a bright green pupa, or chrysalis, with a gold ring around the

In nine to 14 more days, an adult butterfly will emerge. It will hang from the chrysalis for two or three hours, begin to flutter its wings and then fly



Schools, Not Prisons

In every single

state, blacks

make up more

of the prison

they do the

overall state

population than

By Destiny Jackson and Paula McIntosh

oo many African Americans, including young people, are going to prison. In the United States,

black people are only 12 percent of the population, but make up 44 percent of the federal prison population. In every single state, blacks make up more of the prison population than they do the overall state population.

population. Many people who are in prison come from communities that are in poverty. Some are going for illegal drug use. According to statistics only about half are in prison for

violent crimes. Some are in prison and it's not even their fault. Yes, there have been people incarcerated unfairly. There have been men and women who actually go and stay in prison for fight-

> ing for their rights. They are called political prisoners. All of this incarceration is taking mothers and fathers away from their children. It also takes children away from their families.

One thing that contributes to the numbers of blacks in prison is that there are stereo-

types that many people have about blacks, especially males. Based on the images on TV and in movies, black peo-

ple are viewed as dangerous or criminals, even when they're not. Also, many people in prison don't have a good education so they can't get good jobs.

One solution to help keep people out of prison is to provide education so that people can get jobs. Remember, a lot of people commit crimes because they need money, food or things to give them a better life. Also people need to fight against stereotypes and discrimination. If we all begin to see ourselves as humans, then we will begin to make sure that all people are treated fairly.

Reprinted from Voices of the Scribe Street Activists, a periodical from the fifth grade at the Culture and Language Academy of Success in Los Angeles.



Sixth graders from the Secondary School for Law in Brooklyn, NY, submitted these letters to IndyKids:

Every time I go to school we students have to go through scanning. It's as if we were in the airport. Sometimes I feel like they treat us like terrorists. I know they want to keep the school safe, but I think it's a waste of time. That is probably one reason why we as students have to start school late and come out late.

I hate the fact that the war is going on. Many families are losing homes and dying because of this stupid war. I also hate the fact that Blackwater can go around and kill Iraqis without getting into any trouble. These Iraqis have families and now they are gone because of Blackwater. - GREGORY

I think the people in Iraq have not been treated correctly. In Iraq they don't have a place to get food, cotton and other help. -XIAOLI DONG

Third graders at PS 34 in New York City submitted this letter to IndyKids:

From Indykids, we learned that there has been an increase in foreclosures, causing many families to become homeless. We knew this was wrong, so we decided to write to Mayor Bloomberg to end homelessness in our city. Unfortunately, he hasn't written us back.... More kids should write to Mayor Bloomberg and other leaders to end homelessness. Our dream is for there to be so many letters that our leaders will no longer be able to ignore issues around homelessness!



WILTON SAYS ... **IT'S YOUR TURN** E-mail *IndyKids* at indykids@indymedia.org or write to P.O. Box 1417, New York NY 10276.



Under the Same Moon

By Marc LaFleche

magine being separated from your parents for years, with a weekly phone call as your only connection. Thousands of Mexican children face this problem every day as their parents work

REVIEW

in the United States to make more money. A film called *Under the Same Moon* shows us how people without legal working

papers live in the United States in fear of deportation. Deportation means that

you must leave the country.

The film follows Carlos, a nine-yearold Mexican boy whose mother goes to work in the United States. After his grandmother's death, Carlos tries desperately to find his mother by crossing the border into the United States, Every day he is afraid the police and border patrol agents will capture him.

As he travels from Texas to California, Carlos meets many people trying to live and work in the United States, and he realizes that their problems are just like his. He meets some people who want to help him and others who want to hurt him. The film shows



how desperate people become when they need money to live and support their families.

Carlos' mother works morning to night to raise money for Carlos, who she thinks is back home. She learns that some people will take advantage of her because she does not have legal working papers. Many immigrant workers fear asking the police for help, so employers may treat them poorly or refuse to pay them.

Many people cross the border illegally because they want a better life for themselves. Jobs in the United States pay more than they do in Mexico. This film shows that while some people cannot live a decent life unless they break the law, they certainly are not criminals. The only crime is that people have to live this way.

When Kids Fought for Labor Rights

By Pedro Lahoz Wolfe

Kids on Strike is a book about kids from the 19th century who had to work instead of going to school because a lot of kids didn't have enough money to go to school. It tells the story of children who stood up for their rights against powerful com-

pany owners. The book has lots of stories about real children's struggles and strikes to get treated better by the people they worked for and to get enough money.



This book also has a lot of photographs and drawings of children working and strik-

KIDS ON STRIKE By Susan Campbell Bartoletti Houghton Mifflin

The reason why the kids went on strike was because they wanted to go to school and learn, as well as to work shorter hours and get paid more

Examples of jobs they did are: working at factories, selling newspapers and coal mining. Usually they had to work about 13 hours a day. Kids sometimes had to start working when they were only four or five years old.

Most of the strikes were on the east coast of the United States. You should read Kids on Strike to learn more about kids who had to work.

Pedro Lahoz Wolfe, 7, lives in New York City.

Who Am I?



I was born a slave in Maryland in 1818, but I escaped to the North.

I was a famous abolitionist, a person who worked to end slavery.

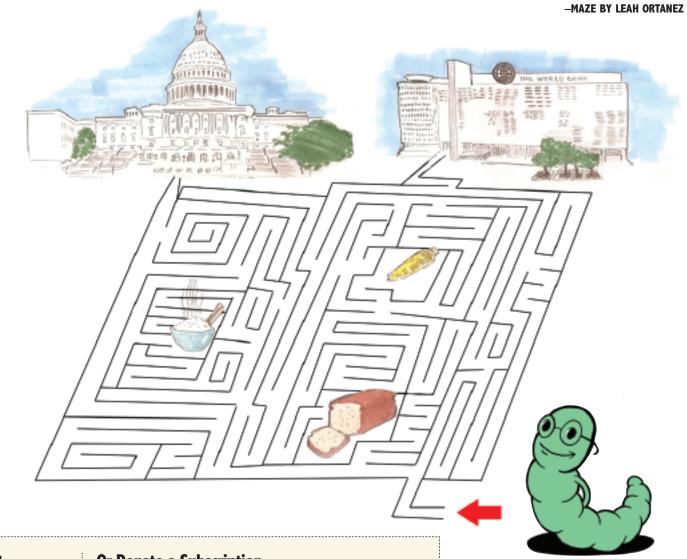
I was a writer, publisher and a U.S. ambassador to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

I gave a speech at a July 4 celebration in 1852. In it, I said: "What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim." -AV

Answer: Frederick Douglass

TRY THIS MAZE — AND FIND THE FOOD!

Help Wilton find the way to the rice, corn and bread. But don't wind up at the U.S. Capitol or the World Bank! They're part of the problem of rising food costs.



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What issues are important to you? The war in Iraq, funding for schools, healthcare, the environment, standardized tests...you name it!

IndyKids will be contacting the 2008 presidential candidates to ask them your questions. Please contact us at indykids@indymedia.org.

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